

**INDIANA DEPARTMENT OF EDUCATION  
SUPPORT AND ACCOUNTABILITY OFFICE REQUEST FOR INFORMATION**

**QUESTIONS AND ANSWERS  
MARCH 2, 2010**

**Q1:** To what extent does the Indiana Department of Education (“**IDOE**”) envision the role of the project management partner to help develop IDOE internal capacity?

- For example, while IDOE is reluctant to “grow government for the purposes of RttT only to contract it again at its conclusion,” how is Race to the Top (“**RttT**”) implementation viewed as an opportunity to develop and improve IDOE’s state-level human capital and broader capacity needs?

**A1:** IDOE does not expect the project management partner to develop IDOE internal capacity. Establishment of the Support and Accountability Office (“**Office**”) will augment and concentrate IDOE’s implementation of RttT, but IDOE will also completely adjust its structure and practices to align with RttT priorities and *Fast Forward* plans to ensure these reforms become institutionalized. The project management partner will carry out grant-specific responsibilities as identified in *Fast Forward*. Beginning in year three of the four-year agreement, the project management partner’s deliverables will include robust transfer of knowledge and tools to IDOE so IDOE will be ready to assume all continuing responsibilities after the four-year term.

**Q2:** With what internal IDOE departments will RttT *Fast Forward* implementation have the greatest interaction/collaboration?

**A2:** IDOE will completely adjust its structure and practices to align with RttT priorities and *Fast Forward* plans to ensure these reforms become institutionalized. Because *Fast Forward* implementation is a top priority, all departments will have a role. The departments with the greatest responsibility for implementation are IT, Assessment, Curriculum/Instruction, and Policy.

**Q3:** What is IDOE’s current capacity for grant management and administration?

**A3:** IDOE currently manages and administers a large number of grants, including Title I, Title II, IDEA, and SFSF. IDOE houses a robust finance team, which manages about 1100 grants and contract per year and is capable of carrying out grant management duties not assigned to the Office.

**Q4:** To what extent will a project management partner help provide planning support to individual LEAs (given LEA work plan requirements)? If LEA work plan support is expected, what is the estimated scale and scope of required support?



**A4:** IDOE is working to provide a sample Work Plan to LEAs by the time the RttT awards are announced in April 2010. In addition, IDOE has already begun conversations with various LEAs and stakeholder groups regarding *Fast Forward* implantation. IDOE does not anticipate the Office will provide planning support to individual LEAs, but IDOE does expect the Office, once established, to immediately begin carrying out all the duties established in *Fast Forward*, including program management and grant support, both of which will require direct regular contact with all Participating LEAs.

**Q5:** What, if any, external parties were involved in the drafting of Indiana's RTTT application? What role did different entities play in the application-drafting process?

**A5:** *Fast Forward* was written almost exclusively by IDOE staff, but a number of entities contributed during the drafting process. IDOE contracted with an external partner, Booz & Company Inc., to provide feedback and strategic consultation regarding IDOE's application drafts. Booz & Company also contributed extensively to all budget documents. IDOE engaged other stakeholder groups in a number of small group meetings, webinars, and other events. In addition, national experts provided feedback and edits on sections of the application drafted by IDOE staff.